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element in most of the new local authorities; and even after the democratic movement in national politics began, about the time of the American revolution, and also after the movement for burgh reform in Scotland had made itself heard in the House of Commons, there was little progress towards democracy in municipal government. It was generally regarded by Parliament, as the concern of the property-owning class, with some concessions to non-property owners who lived in houses of a comparatively high rental or rateable value. This was a marked characteristic of the local authorities of the intermediate period—of the years from 1740 to 1835. It was, moreover, a characteristic that did not disappear with the reform of the municipal corporations in 1835; for several examples of this lagging behind of democracy in local governments as compared with national government, can be cited which survived until as recently as 1900.

Mr. Spencer has bestowed exceptionally good work on the development of Parliamentary procedure that had to come with the enormous increase in private bill legislation. It is here that Parliamentary history is indebted to him for admirably supplementing both Clifford's *History of Private Bill Legislation* and Redlich's much later work on *Procedure in the House of Commons*. Students of the social history of England from the reign of George II to that of Queen Victoria will also find Mr. Spencer's work of value, and especially helpful to a realization of some of the changes that came over English life in the last half of the eighteenth century due to the urbanization of England.

E. P.

La Fortune publique de la France. By EDMOND THÉRY. (Paris: Librairie Ch. Delagrove. 1911. Pp. 256).

This little book represents an attempt to prepare an inventory of the public fortune of France, which the author defines as "the sum of the private fortunes of the inhabitants of France." His method consists, for the most part, in the presentation of comparative tables for the years 1892 to 1908 of all the various resources of the country such as lands, buildings, crops productions, output of mines, manufactures, farm animals, railroads, canals, the merchant marine, banks, etc. The years 1892 to 1908 were chosen for comparison for the reason that the former coincides with the establishment of the new tariff regime, while the latter was the year in which the government made an elaborate inquiry into the value of landed property and agricultural con-

ditions. By way of recapitulation M. Théry places the total resources of France at 287,282,000,000 francs in 1908. This is an increase of 44,333,000,000 francs over the estimate for 1892 and represents a per capita wealth of about 7,300 francs per inhabitant. The above estimates do not include the value of the forests, or edifices belonging to the state, the departments, or the communes. Many of the statistical tables, notably those relating to private savings, education, exports, manufactures, (particularly automobiles) and the decreased consumption of alcohol, show progress along economic and social lines, but others, notably those relating to population, crop productions, particularly of cereals, the value of farm animals, and the value of landed property, can hardly be said to be encouraging.

La Démocratie Politique et Sociale en France. By ALFRED FOUILLEE. (Paris: Felix Alcan. 1910. Pp. 223).

In this book M. Fouillee discusses in turn the errors of individualistic democracy, the idea of country, instruction in a democracy, and social progress in France. For us the chief interest is in the first and last of these essays. It is an error to suppose, he says, that the establishment of the republican regime in France was in itself a solution of the political question. From the point of view of the sociologist the democracy is still very far from having realized its ideal. Many sociological errors have been committed, but it is wrong that they should be charged to the parliamentary regime, as is often done. The trouble is that France does not possess parliamentary regime in its true form, since the will of the majority is too often nullified by the minority. The true remedy is a system of proportional representation, which, by the way, France seems now on the point of introducing. The vices of the present democracy are: (1) that it is not organized on the true principle, that is, according to the idea of the *organisme contractuel*, and, (2) it is satisfied with being purely *political* instead of *social*. To simple political or civil justice must be added more social justice. Among the particular errors of the present democracy are the lack of permanence and stability in its institutions, too much political demagoguery, the too general existence of electoral frauds, government interference in elections, financial extravagance, the unrepresentative character of the parliament, due largely to the *scruten d'arrondissement* method of election and the lack of a system of proportional representation, the too general abstention of the voters in elections, too much